

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

SF 411 - No Fault Divorce Repeal (LSB 2017 SV)

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Fiscal Note Version — New

Description

Senate File 411 establishes exclusive grounds upon which a petition for dissolution of marriage may be filed and granted.

Assumptions

1. This law will become effective July 1, 2003. A lag effect of six months is assumed, from the law's effective date to the date of first entry of affected offenders into the correctional system.
2. There are approximately 14,000 dissolutions granted per year. About half of these are handled with trials and half are handled without a trial.
3. The average time a judge, court reporter, and court attendant spends on domestic matters is 103 minutes per case. The average cost per case is \$170. Senate File 411 would increase the number of trials in the Judicial Branch due to the necessity of establishing the exclusive grounds of the divorce through the submission of additional evidence and witnesses. The Judicial Branch estimates that the average cost per case would triple.

Correctional Impact

Senate File 411 may lead to increased convictions for domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or related offenses for the purposes of establishing the grounds of divorce. There is no readily available information to estimate how many additional convictions would occur.

Fiscal Impact

There is no readily available information to estimate how many additional convictions would occur under SF 411, therefore, the fiscal impact cannot be determined. Under current law, the average court cost for one case is approximately \$170. Under SF 411, the cost per case is expected to be approximately \$510.

Sources

Judicial Branch
Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Attorney General
State Public Defender

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 19, 2003

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.
